



# Program Reference Guide

## Growth Management Services (GMS)

*Providing financial and technical resources to build livable and sustainable communities*

### Buildable Lands

This program enables local governments to coordinate and analyze land supply to ensure that they have enough lands for development. Clark, King, Kitsap, Pierce, Snohomish, and Thurston counties are required to plan under this program. Other communities have the option to use it.

### Capital Facilities

Capital facilities are services such as electricity, water, and sewer. Capital facilities plans (CFP) must be included in comprehensive plans so that capital facilities keep pace with growth. GMS has created a pilot capital facility planning software tool to help develop a comprehensive, user friendly, cost effective means of CFP development.

### Critical Areas and Environment

Under the Growth Management Act, local governments are required to designate and protect critical areas using the "best available science." Critical areas are wetlands, areas affecting aquifers used for potable water, flood regions, geologically hazardous areas, and fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas.

### Educational Programs

These classes provide a basic overview of land use planning in Washington that target elected and appointed officials and their staff, interested citizens, students, private sector representatives, and planning commissioners.

### Grants

Grants are awarded to local governments preparing and implementing comprehensive plans and to those planning for natural resource lands and critical areas. During the 2001-2003 biennium, GMS distributed about \$5.65 million in grants to local governments.

### Geographic Information Systems

The primary mission of the growth management geographic information systems effort is to create and maintain a statewide map of urban growth areas.

### Planning Review Program

The Planning Review Program (PRP) maintains a statewide database of county-wide planning policies, comprehensive plans, plan amendments, and more. This program reviews a selected number of local government GMA actions and coordinates the state agencies interested in reviewing these actions. PRP also brings state agencies together monthly to discuss emerging growth management issues.

### Publications

GMS publishes the quarterly newsletter *About Growth* as well as numerous technical and informational materials pertaining to growth management.

## For More Information

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